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RURAL DISTRICT OF ROMNEY MARSH

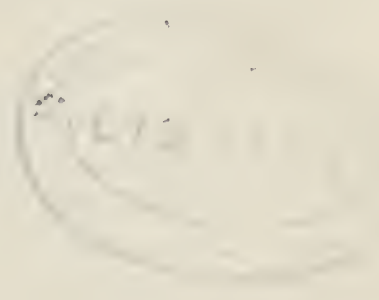
KENT


ANNUAL REPORTS OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1955





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ROMNEY MARSH RURAL DISTRICT, KENT

Annual Reports of the Medical Officer  
of Health and Sanitary Inspector for  
the Year 1955.

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Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the year, 1955.

According to the estimate of the Registrar General, the mid-year Home Population increased by 60, from 4,460 in 1954 to 4,520 in 1955.

The number of births increased from 57 in 1954 to 66 in 1955, i.e. by 9, and the birth-rate was accordingly 14.60 per 1,000 estimated resident population; when adjusted by the Registrar General's comparability factor for comparison with other Districts, the rate becomes 16.93. That for England and Wales was 15.

There were 2 still-births and the equivalent rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births was 29.12; that for England and Wales was 23.1. The majority of still-births, as with infant deaths, are due to congenital or abnormal causes.

3 deaths occurred amongst infants under one year of age. These were due to (1) Broncho-pneumonia (2) Intussusception with perforation; there is no record of a third death in the office register and it is possible that this death may have been incorrectly assigned to this District.

There was no death due to pregnancy, childbirth or abortion amongst mothers.

The total number of deaths from all causes was 40.

21 of those deaths were due to Heart, Circulatory or Vascular Diseases, which are the natural cause of death amongst the aged, and therefore cause the majority of deaths.

Cancer caused 7 deaths; there was no death from Cancer of the Lung to which the inhalation of tobacco smoke has been postulated to be a contributory cause. The ages at death were 57, 61, 61, 72, 75, 78 and 84 years. If a reasonably early diagnosis is made, Cancer can be successfully treated and should not be regarded in these days as being beyond hope. Too many patients only receive treatment in the advanced stage of the disease, when death can be delayed but not prevented.

There was only one death from Pneumonia, which, prior to the introduction of the Antibiotics, such as Penicillin, and the Sulphonamides, was a major cause of death.

The other causes of death were miscellaneous and there was no exceptional grouping.

There was, however, one death from Infectious Disease which was exceptional. A child, aged 4 years, died from an overwhelming infection of the Meningococcus within 12 hours, the actual cause of death at post-mortem having been found to be due to septicaemia and bi-lateral adrenal haemorrhages.



One case of Poliomyelitis occurred in the month of September. The patient was a child of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  years, who was resident in a Deaf Children's Residential Home. He had just returned from holiday and therefore could not have become infected within this District. Unfortunately the infection was of a fulminating bulbar type and the child died in Hospital within 72 hours. The necessary precautions were put into practice in the Children's Home and no secondary cases occurred. It may be hoped that the new Poliomyelitis vaccine will be effective against the disease, or at least will prevent the onset of paralysis or the severe bulbar form which causes most of the deaths.

There were 4 notified cases of Scarlet Fever. All appeared to be unrelated, and conformed to the present mild type; they were all nursed at home. It is important that Practitioners should take 'release' swabs from nose and throat before any child is allowed to return to school; where this is not done, the carrier rate in a school may become high and cause an outbreak amongst the susceptibles in the school. Nasal carriers are usually the most potential source of outbreaks.

10 cases of Whooping Cough were also notified. It is not practicable to prevent the spread of this rather distressing disease, particularly amongst school-children, as it is highly infectious for about a week before the coughing becomes grouped into the typical whoop, - before which it is not usually identified by the parents. In an epidemic there are also many mild missed cases. It would seem that the best method of prevention will rest in immunisation by the new vaccines for which substantial claims are made by the manufacturers and which are fairly widely used by Practitioners, although they are still 'sub-judice' by the Medical Research Council.

There was the expected bi-ennial outbreak of Measles, 104 cases having been notified. As with Whooping Cough, it is not practicable to prevent the spread of this disease as it is highly infectious before the rash appears before which it is not usually identified. Occasionally a child, who has been in contact with Measles, is sent into a General Hospital because of a high temperature that cannot be accounted for; in these cases Koplick's spots which occur before the onset of the typical rash, are a valuable sign of the disease. Also, as with Whooping Cough, broncho-pneumonia is the complication which can make Measles a serious disease. It often occurs suddenly and can advance rapidly within 12 hours; sometimes it precedes or co-incides with the eruption of the rash. Early diagnosis is a great aid to successful treatment.

12 cases of Acute Primary or Influenzal Pneumonia were notified and there were probably more secondary cases, which are not notifiable. As stated earlier, there was only one death from Pneumonia.

No other cases of Infectious Diseases were notified.

Regarding Tuberculosis, 3 cases of the Respiratory type were notified. Improved facilities for diagnosis, including Mass Radiography are now available and the waiting period of admission to Sanatoria is diminishing; also many patients can now be treated at home following the introduction of new medicaments. The outlook for patients has reached a new horizon of hope.

One case of non-respiratory Tuberculosis was notified. This was localised in a cervical gland and it is not known

whether the type of bacillus was of human or bovine origin. The milk supply, which was pasteurised, was examined biologically, but no Tubercle Bacilli were found.

In conclusion, I wish to take this opportunity to thank you for your interest and assistance in the work of the Department and the staff for their efficient co-operation.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

J. MARSHALL.

M.B., ChB., D.P.H.



SECTION A.

STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT  
FOR 1955.

Area:- 31,031

Registrar-General's Estimate of:-			
The Resident Population	...	...	4,520
Number of Inhabited Houses According			
to the Rate Books	...	...	1,994
Rateable Value:-	...	...	£58,134
Sum Represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	£230

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Social Conditions

Romney Marsh Rural District is essentially agricultural in character and interests but, as part of the boundary is formed by the sea with wide expanses of sand, there is considerable catering for the large numbers of holiday-makers and weekend trippers who are attracted to the district, and associated there are large holiday-camps and licensed caravan sites. There is negligible unemployment and social conditions are generally satisfactory.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

	<u>Total</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>		<u>Romney Marsh Rural Dist.</u>	<u>England and Wales</u>
1. Live Births	66	39	27	Birth Rate	14.60	15.0
(a) Legitimate	63	37	26	per 1,000		
(b) Illegitimate	3	2	1	estimated		
				resident		
				population		
2. Stillbirths	2	1	1	Rate per	29.12	23.1
(a) Legitimate	2	1	1	1,000 total		
(b) Illegitimate	-	-	-	(live and		
				still)		
				births		
3. Deaths	40	22	18	Death rate	8.84	11.7
				per 1,000		
				resident		
				population		
4. Deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion.	-	-	-	Rate per	-	Not available
				1,000 (live		
				and still)		
				births.		
5. Deaths of Infants Under One Year of Age.	3	1	2			
(a) Legitimate	3	1	2			
(b) Illegitimate	-	-	-			
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births					45.45	24.9
Rate re legitimate infants					47.46	
Rate re illegitimate infants					-	
6. Deaths from Cancer (all ages)					7	
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)					-	
Deaths from Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea.					-	
Deaths from Measles					-	

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The following cases of Infectious Diseases were notified during the year 1955.

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	4
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	10
Measles	...	...	...	...	104
Acute Primary or Influenzal Pneumonia					12
Meningococcal Infection		...	...		1
Acute Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)		...	...		1

CAUSES OF DEATH IN ROMNEY MARSH RURAL  
DISTRICT DURING 1955

					<u>Males</u>	<u>Female</u>
	ALL CAUSES				22	18
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	-	1
2.	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	-	-
3.	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	-	-
4.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	-	1
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	-	-
8.	Measles	...	...	...	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic disease	...	...	...	-	-
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	...	...	...	2	1
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	...	...	...	-	-
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	...	...	...	-	-
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	...	...	...	-	-
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	3	1
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	-	1
16.	Diabetes	...	...	...	-	-
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	1	3
18.	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	4	1
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	-	-
20.	Other heart disease	...	...	...	5	6
21.	Other circulatory disease	...	...	...	1	-
22.	Influenza	...	...	...	-	-
23.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	1	-
24.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	2	-
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	-	1
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	-	-
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	-	-
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	-	-
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	-	-
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	-	-
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	2	2
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	1	-
34.	All other accidents	...	...	...	-	-
35.	Suicide	...	...	...	-	-
36.	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	-	-



Immunisation against Diphtheria, 1955.

The following is a return of the number of children under the age of 15 years on 31st December, 1955, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date (i.e. at any time since 1st January, 1941.

<u>Year of Birth</u>	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	Total
Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster) 1951 - 1955	3	18	21	24	24	71	61	68	73	94	48	49	51	27	5	637
1950 or earlier	27	26	28	20	19	-	2	1	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	138

Immunisation against Diphtheria and Vaccination against Smallpox, 1955.

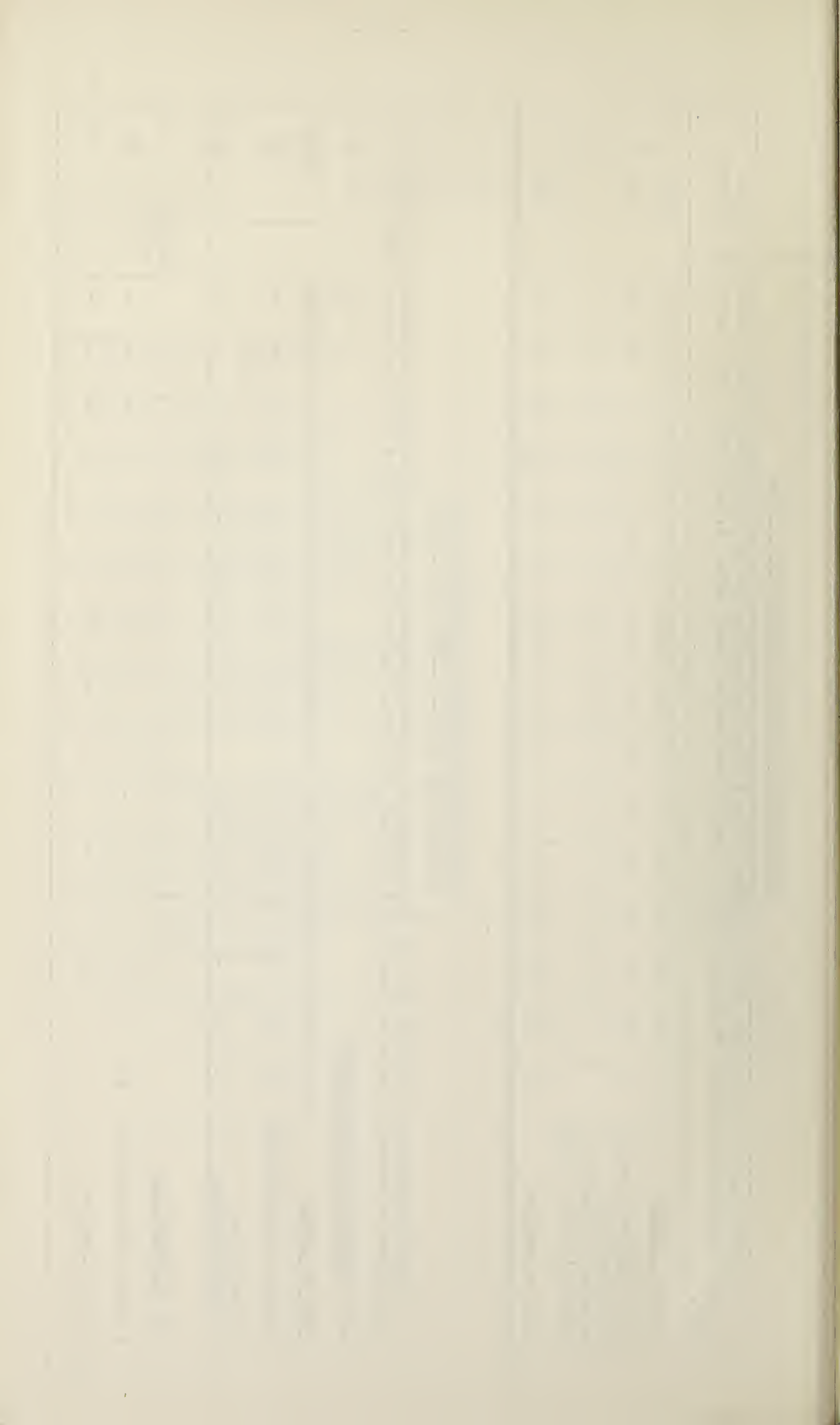
The following is a return of (A) the number of children who were immunised against Diphtheria and (B) the number of persons who were vaccinated against Smallpox, during the year ended 31st December, 1955.

(A) Diphtheria Immunisation

<u>Year of Birth</u>	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	Total
Primary Inoculations	5	23	4	-	5	5	3	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	47
Re-inforcing Inoculations	-	-	-	-	2	41	2	1	2	4	-	27	1	-	-	80

(B) Vaccination

	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	Before 1941
Primary Vaccination	23	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	33
Re-vaccination	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	5



# TUBERCULOSIS

## New Cases and Mortality, 1955.

<u>Age Periods</u>	<u>New Cases</u>				<u>Deaths</u>				<u>Total cases on Register</u>			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	7	3	1
1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
and upwards	-	3	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-



SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

1. Water Supply

The District is supplied by the Folkestone and District Water Company and by the Mid Kent Water Company.

12 samples were examined bacteriologically and all were satisfactory.

Approximately 96% of dwellings have a main supply.

2. Drainage, Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

There were no developments during the year. The scheme for the construction of a new Sewerage Works in the Dymchurch and St. Mary's Bay area will shortly be submitted to the Ministry; it is urgently necessary. A large number of dwellings are on cesspool drainage and two free emptyings are given in each 6 month period.

3. Public Cleansing

A weekly refuse collection is made in the coastal area, and a fortnightly collection in the remainder of the District.

4. Housing

16 new houses were built during the year, making a total of 262 built since the last war; in all there are 292 Council Houses.

The following table gives the number of houses inspected for defects during the year:-

Number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health and Housing Acts.....78

Number of houses found to be in any respect unfit for human habitation..... 5

Number of houses found to be unfit for human habitation and incapable of repair at reasonable expense.....24

Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied by informal action..... 6

Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices.....Nil

Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made.....Nil

Number of houses demolished..... 2

Number of houses closed in pursuance of an undertaking given under Section 11 of the Housing Act 1936..... 1

Number of dwelling houses reconditioned and undertakings cancelled.....Nil

Improvements and Conversions

11 Schemes, total cost of improvements £2,344. These were a small schemes to individual houses or pairs of houses and include the installation of hot and cold water, bathrooms, W.C.s and drainage systems.

5. Milk and Dairies

(a) Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 (Part 111)

No. of registered distributors	4
No. of registered dairies	1

(b) Licences Granted under Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1949 excluding licences granted by Food and Drugs authorities in relation to milk pasteurised or sterilised on the premises of the applicant.

	<u>Dealers</u>	<u>Supplementary</u>
Pasteurised	2	2
Sterilised	2	2
Tuberculin Tested (raw)	2	2
Accredited	Nil	Nil

(c) Milk Sampling

	<u>Samples taken</u>	<u>No. of unsatisfactory Samples</u>
Pasteurised	11	0
Tuberculin Tested	11	1
Sterilised	0	0
Biological Examination of raw milks	9	1

6. Inspection of Food and Food-preparing premises

54 inspections of various food premises were made and a number of improvements were effected

Ice Cream(Heat Treatment) Regulations 1947-48

48 samples were taken

(1)	37 Grade 1
(2)	10 Grade 11
(3)	1 Grade 111

No pathogenic organisms were isolated from any sample.



CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle exclud- ing Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
No. killed	46	0	1	49	201
No. inspected	46	0	1	49	201
<u>All diseases except tuberculosis</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	0	0	0	1	0
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	5	0	0	0	2
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	11%	0%	0%	2%	1%
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	0	0	0	0	0
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	0	0	0	0	2
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 & 1948

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health  
(including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector)

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Inspections (3)	Number of Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
1) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	-	-	-	-
11) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	10	20	One	Nil
111) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out- workers' premises)	4	6	Nil	Nil
TOTAL	14	26	One	Nil



2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	3	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	3	3	-	-	-

